



**CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810**

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FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of July 21st, 2016 through August 21st, 2016 and details activities of the Department.



*The honor of your presence
is requested at the*



Danbury Fire Department Training Facility
Ribbon Cutting & Open House



**Sunday, September 25, 2016
10:00 AM**

21 Plumtrees Road, Danbury CT

Please be our guest as we showcase our new classroom training facility!

Ribbon-cutting ceremony

Facility tours

Display of apparatus and training props

Refreshments

Please RSVP by September 25, 2016

by calling 203-796-1550



Public Education / Prevention / Public Relations

Building familiarization was conducted at 163 South Street. Following a response to Old Bridge Road, Truck setup the aerial and proceeded to roof to observe the building layout and roof access.

E22 attended the Korean War Memorial Service. Truck Company, E22 and E23 toured Litchfield Hall at WCSU, as the building is undergoing a large scale renovation. E22 familiarized themselves with the buildings on the Boehringer property as well as the Jenny Drive gate. E26 familiarized themselves with condo projects in their district, Belimo and Crowne Point fire protection systems, and Lake Waubeeka. TAC 1 reviewed their first due district.

Suppression / Response Activities of Note

One afternoon the department was summoned to West Lake to rescue four teenage boys who swam to the island but were reluctant to swim back. Working with the Police, fire units launched the Department's Zodiac boat from the Causeway area and headed over to the island, and brought the group to safety.

A complicated vehicle rescue was handled on Route 7 North. Danbury units were sent to the highway for a serious accident, and finding it was over the Brookfield town line, that department was summoned as well. Danbury and Brookfield Fire and EMS Units, along with three state troopers, worked harmoniously together to treat a diabetic patient who had crashed 75 feet down an embankment. Using rope skills that are practiced often here, a system was set up to winch the victim and rescuers back up the hill safely.

The severe thunder storm on August 11th required all hands with four strike-induced structure fires, numerous wires down, road closures, and vehicle rescues from flooding.

Squad 1 was called to the ER to cut a titanium ring off a patient's finger.

Several public assist type calls other than lockouts entailed, respectively: 1) assisting an invalid who had fallen out of bed, 2) identifying the source of an alarm as being a sewer pump alarm, 3) a stovetop burner malfunction, 4) a pilot light needing to be relit, 5) a smoke detector install, 6) assisting residents to upper floors of Kimberly Place while awaiting elevator repair, and 7) identifying a malfunctioning CO detector in need of replacement.

A lightning strike destroyed the chimney at a Greenfield Ave. residence. Luckily, no one was injured and there was no other damage to the structure.

Command and Staff Activities

- King Street Vol. Co. annual dinner
- EIC meeting regarding HQ addition
- Board of Awards
- Boehringer Ingelheim annual Hazmat drill

- Wake for Sue Johnson
- Cabinet meeting
- Volunteer Fire Council meeting
- City Council meeting
- Dispatch oversight meetings with IXP and the PD
- Monthly EMS/Dispatch steering committee

EMS/HazMat – Coordinator Rey Rodriguez

EMS/HAZMAT Wednesday

The regularly scheduled EMS Wednesday Training for the Danbury Fire Department has focused on the Risked based Response concept regarding Terrorism Awareness and proper atmospheric metering and monitoring.

Airborne contaminants can present a significant threat to the First Responders and the public's health and safety. Identification and classification of these contaminants through air monitoring is an essential component of an emergency response to a hazardous materials release.

Reliable measurements of airborne contaminants are crucial to:

- Selecting personal protective equipment
- Delineating areas where protection is needed
- Assessing the potential health effects of exposure
- Determining the need for specific medical monitoring

The Risk based Response delineates the factors to consider when conducting air monitoring at a potential hazardous materials release. It provides strategies for assessing airborne contamination, and describes instruments and methods for measuring potential exposures.

A review of the Communications Center Dispatch algorithms regarding an emergency response to a Hazardous Materials release was provided by Communications Officer Gagliardo and Training Officer Rogers.

Following the classroom session, a functional drill was held utilizing the Bullex Gas Trainer meters and leaking pressurized tank system. This equipment purchased by DEMHS Region Five for use by the Danbury Fire Department HAZMAT team, simulates and detects gas clouds and leaks that can be set in realistic scenarios where firefighters are most likely to respond. By detecting, displaying levels and alarming in real time, the Gas Trainer system challenges students to interpret and react to a potential gas leak.

EMS Supervisor's meeting

EMS Coordinator Rodriguez attended the monthly EMS Supervisors meeting at the Danbury Hospital. Topics discussed were:

- Education
- Trauma
- Medical Director Update

Communications/911 – Communications Coordinator Jamie Gagliardo

- Completed the Fire Officer 1 Course taught by the Connecticut Fire Academy at the new fire training facility.
- Attended the July Volunteer Council Meeting to discuss the new radios and pagers being placed into service.
- Assisted the EMS/HAZMAT Division with a hands-on HAZMAT training scenario during our regularly scheduled EMS/HAZMAT Wednesday Training.
- The mobile radio replacement project has been completed. Our vendor, Northeastern, installed new radios in all fire apparatus that required upgrading to UHF.
- Communications worked through a few radio system malfunctions the last few days mostly due to the heat of summer. All problems were resolved.
- Attended the Fire Officer 1 national certification exam at the Danbury Fire School.
- Attended a few meetings to pre-plan our ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Fire School.
- Responded during the micro-burst thunderstorm on 8/11/16 to assist the on duty shift. The responders and dispatch center did an excellent job handling the large volume of calls that were received during this storm. The responders and the Dispatch center were saturated with many calls for service such as trees down and flooding conditions along with some Fires and other emergencies. All the calls were handled by Danbury Fire companies in priority order.
- Repairs were made to the Hospital Radio Site and Boxwood Lane Radio Site due to damage done from the recent lightening storms.
- The Pump Committee has been working diligently with the Pierce Representative to finalize the two new fire engines that have been ordered. Arrival is expected at the beginning of the New Year.
- Worked with the Airport Administration to create an access point to the Spruce Mountain Radio Site. With their help and the help of Spruce Mountain Estates, we have a path that can assist the Fire Department and the Airport with safer access to our equipment.
- A few hours were spent at the Police Department inputting MDC's (Motorola Data Communications - Unit ID signaling) that will allow the dispatchers to see which unit is transmitting from the field to dispatch.
- A meeting was held with the Warden of the Federal Correctional Institution to discuss access to their radio tower. This access will greatly enhance the Fire

Departments communications in the northern sections of town along with some built in redundancies safeguarding from equipment failures. This project is moving in a positive direction; more to come.

- Worked with the Volunteer Council to distribute the recently purchased Motorola Minitor 6 pagers. These pagers align all the responders with the radio upgrades that are in progress. Once these pagers are distributed amongst the company members, all of the Fire Department communications will be on the UHF frequency band.
- Attended the Volunteer Council Meeting to complete the pager distribution along with update the Council on additional future radio upgrades.
- Spent many hours updating all the apparatus iPads to the newest operating system and updating the NexGen First Responder application that allows for real time information at the fingertips of the responders.
- Many hours were put into updating all the highway responses for I-84 and Route 7 to our newest response guidelines. The Ladder Truck was added to all cardiac arrest calls in the city for added manpower.
- Ongoing projects:
 - Radio system infrastructure upgrades including replacement mobile and portable radios for all fire department members and apparatus with assistance from Northeastern Communications.
 - The Communications Division and the Training Division are in the process of updating many of the Danbury Fire Department Standard Operating Procedures. Once updates and additions are drafted, they go through a review process prior to being placed in the live version.

Meetings and events:

- July 21th – Fire Officer 1 Course
- July 25th – Attended the Volunteer Council Meeting
- July 26th – Fire Officer 1 Course Practical Exam
- August 3rd – HAZMAT training scenario
- August 9th – Fire Officer 1 National Certification Exam
- August 10th – HAZMAT training scenario
- August 11th – Storm Response
- August 12th – Hospital Radio Site failure / repair
- August 14th – Boxwood Ln. Radio Site failure / repair
- August 16th – Additional repairs at Hospital Radio Site
- August 16th – Airport Admin Meeting – Spruce Mountain access
- August 16th – Conference with Pierce Fire Apparatus representative
- August 17th – Meeting at FCI for tower access
- August 17th – Meeting with Fleet Auto Supply for new staff vehicles
- August 17th – MDC data input

- August 18th – Radio installation Car 61 and Car 30
- August 22nd – Programming of EMS pagers
- August 22nd – Volunteer Council meeting / Pager updates
- August 29th – Updated all highway responses (I-84 and Rt-7)

Training – Training Officer Steve Rogers

Volunteer Division

Live Burn

Danbury Fire Training facility facilitated Live Burn with E-5, E-10 and SQ-7 and 6.

Fire Officer Two

FO-II class has been scheduled for the fall.

Quarterly Training

3rd Quarter training is scheduled with 4 dates from September through early October.

Out of Town Volunteers

Danbury Fire Training facility hosted a Live Burn attended by Stamford Volunteers.

Career Division

Fire School

Danbury Fire Training facility also facilitated F-500 foam demo with D-group.

Multiple crews participated with Airport Familiarization with Mike Safranek.

Pump Operator class was held in our state of the art classroom facility. The State of CT Fire Academy gave the facility high reviews. We had over ten Danbury Fire participants.

Aerial Operator class was also held in our state of the art classroom facility. We had approximately ten Danbury Fire participants.

D-group and B-group utilized multiple days training with pump operators at the fire school.

Hydrants

The annual hydrant testing program is underway, with the goal to test all 2,100 hydrants in the city by the end of October.

Meetings and events:

- July 21 – Meeting with Regional Fire Schools in Berlin
- July 23 – Engine 14 Dinner
- Aug 1 through 25 – Multiple meetings with various contractors at Fire School

Apparatus / Equipment – Superintendent Joe Cavo

The Hurst tool spreader from E-24 needed a new hand guard and handle; these items were replaced by the dealer and this tool was returned to service. Truck-1 is back in

service after having issues with the ladder failing to bed properly. We also had a failure in the Exhaust Regeneration system which caused an out of service condition. We replaced the Diesel Exhaust Fluid Filter and that has seemed to correct the issue. Old Truck-1 at the fire school is out of service due to an undetermined hydraulic issue. During a training evolution the outriggers refused to operate properly and we just haven't had the time with our in service apparatus needing attention to get back to it. We will keep you posted with any progress we make on it. The MSA thermal imaging camera from Truck-1 was showing a double image. We sent the camera out for repairs last month and that unit has been returned to service last week. We took E-23 out of service with a defective starter, upon replacing the starter it was noticed that the ring gear was heavily damaged. We are currently awaiting a new flywheel and ring gear quote from Stewart-Stevenson Detroit Diesel Allison.

Other repairs completed:

- Repaired and recharged E-26 air conditioning
- Repaired the exhaust system E-23
- Replaced rear leaf springs, hangers and bushings E-22
- Repaired multiple broken wheel chocks
- Replaced tires on R-1, E-26, and Truck-1
- Repaired Echo saw from Truck-2
- Repaired steering gears in E-26
- Repaired ladder controls Truck-2
- Ordered new seat belts Truck-1 and E-26
- Repaired E-23 and E-24 condensate drain system

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal – Fire Marshal Jim Russell

Inspections

This month we inspected 316 apartments. We also did 19 misc. inspections, 14 liquor inspections, 17 places of assembly, 30 businesses, 2 day care, and 10 educational occupancies. There were 3 health care inspections and 25 mercantile inspections. We have also been working with the UNIT and Health Department to find illegal living spaces and overcrowded apartments.

Plan Reviews

Our team continues to spend time doing plan reviews. This month we spent 26 hours reviewing plans for the Danbury High School Addition, 4 Mountain View Terrace, 20 Backus Ave, 60 Shelter Rock Rd, Boehringer, Volvo Auto Sales, 106 Newtown Rd, and several remodels in the Danbury Fair Mall.

Fire Investigations

This month we had 5 building fires, and 6 rubbish/garbage/grass/other types of fires. We also had 2 boiler malfunctions. Investigations were done on all fires.

Training

This month we attended 8 hours of continuing education training. We also trained on using our Fire Extinguisher Training Prop. This prop uses propane to simulate a real fire, and uses special fire extinguishers to put out the fire. It gives people a real feel for using a fire extinguisher in a safe and clean manner. We will be giving training to 130 employees at the UTC building in early September.

Ongoing Projects

Kennedy Flats Apartments has completed building #1. Final inspections have been made. Building #2 is moving along very well and is the last building to be completed in this 374 unit project. Completion of this project should be sometime in November of this year.

Danbury High School has just completed installing a brand new Fire Alarm System, and finished up the sprinkler system also.

Great Job by our Staff

DFM Gary Bruce has been working on a process for the installation and updating of Knox Box information. The data will be collected electronically and transmitted to the Danbury Fire Communications Coordinator and IXP. The Knox Form will soon be available on the City of Danbury's Website. This process will make our Knox Box list more accurate by updating information, and make getting into buildings more accessible for our firefighters.

Thanks to our staff of six Deputies, DFM Terry Timan, DFM Tyler Bergemann, DFM Jonathan DeJoseph, DFM John Osborne, DFM Eric Handau, and DFM Gary Bruce, our inspection numbers have risen. Our staff is really doing a good job of scheduling appointments.

In May of 2016 we had 423 inspections. We have just completed 764 inspections for the month of August 2016. We are striving to increase the number of inspections we do each month. Conversely, we hope that this will lower the number of fires each month.

DFM Bruce has completed his second Iron Man Competition. On July 24th, he entered an Ironman Triathlon in Lake Placid NY. The triathlon was a 2.4 mile swim, a 112 mile bike ride, and a 26.2 mile run. His time was 13 hours and 50 minutes. Gary also is a member of our City's Wellness Committee.

Department Statistical Reports

Community Risk Reduction

Monthly inspections	764
Abatements issued	0

Violations issued	1
Complaints	4
Fire Investigations	5
Fire Safety Programs	5

Public Safety Answering Point

Total 911 calls	3948
Cellular 911 calls	2937
Abandoned 911 calls	433
Admin calls received	987